

In my district, the Santa Clara Chapter of the American Red Cross helps many people in times of need. They range from victims of disasters such as house or apartment fires, floods or mudslides, and earthquakes; to victims encountered through national disasters such as Hurricanes Ike and Katrina and international disasters such as the 2005 tsunami and the philippine earthquake.

This year in my district, the American Red Cross Chapter is hard at work and has already responded to local disasters, including a 5-unit townhome fire on January 12, 2009 that left 14 people homeless and caused more than \$2 million in damages.

The Red Cross is committed to making our homes and our communities safe and works closely with local, state and national partners to help people personalize their risk to natural hazards and make preparedness a personal priority. Join me in applauding the hard work of the American Red Cross volunteers and celebrating March as American Red Cross Month.

A PROCLAMATION HONORING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE TUSCARAWAS COUNTY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE.

HON. ZACHARY T. SPACE

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 4, 2009

Mr. SPACE. Madam Speaker:

Whereas, the Tuscarawas County Chamber of Commerce has nearly 600 businesses as members; and

Whereas, at 1:15 PM on May 21, 1959, the Tuscarawas County Chamber of Commerce was created out of the former New Philadelphia Chamber of Commerce; and

Whereas, the Tuscarawas County Chamber of Commerce has been instrumental in attracting new industries to the area; and

Whereas, the Chamber of Commerce has held as the core of its mission to promote the civic, economic and social welfare of Tuscarawas County; therefore, be it

Resolved that along with the friends, member businesses, and the residents of the 18th Congressional District, I commend the Tuscarawas County Chamber of Commerce for their staunch support of the county and their ever-present efforts to bring economic growth and industry to the people of Tuscarawas County.

CHILD NUTRITION PROGRAMS

HON. LORETTA SANCHEZ

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 4, 2009

Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the California Legislature on the passage of Assembly Joint Resolution No. 69 addressing child nutrition programs.

The high occurrence of malnutrition, obesity and poor fitness in California are frightening.

Currently, only 6 percent of school lunches meet all of the School Meal Initiative (SMI) standards.

Over 30 percent of 7th graders in California are overweight and almost 40 percent cannot pass the state's fitness test.

The Resolution passed by the California Legislature urges Congress and the President of the United States to ensure that child nutrition programs establish comprehensive nutrition and wellness policies in schools.

In addition, this resolution supports the reauthorization of federal child nutrition programs and requests adequate reimbursements to fund the cost of producing a healthy school meal in the region where it is served.

I urge my colleagues to follow California's example and work together to ensure proper nutrition and fitness for American children.

I would now like to insert the following text from the California Assembly Joint Resolution No. 69.

ASSEMBLY JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 69

Whereas, The National School Lunch Program is declared to be the policy of Congress, "as a measure of national security, to safeguard the health and well-being of the nation's children and to encourage the domestic consumption of nutritious agricultural commodities and other food, by assisting the states, through grants-in-aid and other means, in providing an adequate supply of food and other facilities for the establishment, maintenance, operation, and expansion of nonprofit school lunch programs"; and

Whereas, Federal regulations further state that participating schools shall ensure that children gain a full understanding of the relationship between proper eating and good health; and

Whereas, Child nutrition programs are responsible for collaborating with the school community to implement comprehensive nutrition and wellness policies in school districts; and

Whereas, All of California's more than 6 million pupils deserve access to high-quality, safe, nutritious meals available in the school setting, recognizing the link between adequate nourishment and educational performance; and

Whereas, Children that experience hunger have been shown to be more likely to have lower math scores, decreased attentiveness, increased likelihood of repeating a grade, increased absences and tardiness, and more referrals to special education services; and

Whereas, Child nutrition programs in California provide over 4 million meals to school children daily, and must comply with complex state and federal requirements, provide adequate food preparation and dining facilities, and meet budget requirements despite rapidly escalating food, energy, transportation, labor, and other costs; and

Whereas, Losses in the school meal programs must be offset by other revenue sources that would otherwise support classroom instruction; and

Whereas, For each lunch provided to a child who qualifies for a free meal, the estimated average cost of producing the lunch is \$3.10; the reimbursement received for each meal, provided that all state and federal requirements are met, is \$2.6895 (a federal reimbursement of \$2.47 and a state reimbursement of \$0.2195); and

Whereas, The difference between reimbursement and cost undermines the ability to continue to provide nutritious meals to all pupils; and

Whereas, The United States Department of Agriculture recognizes higher cost as a factor in determining reimbursement rates by allowing a higher federal reimbursement rate in Alaska and Hawaii; and

Whereas, Many families that qualify for reduced-price meals, prescribed by federal law

using the federal poverty level, find it difficult to pay the reduced fee, and the fee for a paid meal is an insurmountable barrier to participation for an increasing number of families in California; and

Whereas, The eligibility scale to qualify pupils for free or reduced-price meals is the same scale throughout the country and does not consider regions with higher costs of living; and

Whereas, A self-sufficiency index, which identifies the income levels at which families can meet their most basic needs without public support, is available in all regions to apply to meal eligibility standards; and

Whereas, A single-parent household with two children in San Mateo County, California, needs \$67,867 to be self-sufficient, while a similar family in Hardeman County, Tennessee, is self-sufficient with only \$21,657; now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Assembly and the Senate of the State of California, jointly, That the Legislature supports reauthorization of federal child nutrition programs and urges the President and the Congress of the United States to ensure that reimbursement rates are adequate to fully fund the cost of producing a nutritious school meal relative to the cost of living in a region; and be it further

Resolved, That the eligibility scale used to qualify families for free and reduced-price meals be adjusted according to the self-sufficiency index for the region served; and be it further

Resolved, That the Chief Clerk of the Assembly transmit copies of this resolution to the President and Vice President of the United States, to the Speaker of the House of Representatives, to the Majority Leader of the Senate, and to each Senator and Representative from California in the Congress of the United States.

FLORIDA EVERGLADES BRIDGE

HON. JOHN J. DUNCAN, JR.

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 4, 2009

Mr. DUNCAN. Madam Speaker, in yesterday's Washington Times is an article about a very controversial bridge project through the Florida Everglades.

This project has been strongly opposed by the Miccosukee Tribe through whose land this bridge would be built.

A federal judge has blasted this projected bridge in a scathing opinion, but our Omnibus bill ordered that it be constructed anyway.

The estimated cost is \$225 million, but because almost all federal projects are given lowball estimates on the front end, it would probably end up costing much, much more. I have discussed this project with my friend, Representative MARIO DIAZ-BALART in whose district this bridge project is located.

He told me he has discussed this bridge with the Army Corps of Engineers and all of the interested parties.

He believes that, while a bridge may have to be built at some point, that other, cheaper alternatives should be considered first.

I agree with Representative BALART, for whom I have the greatest respect.

I would like to call to the attention of my colleagues and other readers of the RECORD the following article about this project from the Washington Times.